

QUETTA VOICE

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Quetta Voice.



Two SC judges warn new code of conduct will restrict judicial freedom, create avenues for control

COAS: Balochistan is the Pride of Pakistan, Blessed with Resilient and Patriotic People



News Desk:

Dawood Ahmed: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, interacted with participants of the 17th National Workshop Balochistan at General Headquarters (GHQ) today.

The COAS, during his interaction with the participants, remarked that Balochistan is the pride of Pakistan, endowed with highly vibrant, resilient and patriotic people who are its true wealth. He also

highlighted the Federal and Provincial governments' development initiatives, being undertaken to uplift the socio-economic landscape of Balochistan through a people-centric approach. He emphasised upon realisation of the immense economic potential of the Province for the benefit of the people of Balochistan.

Acknowledging the constructive role of civil society, particularly in engaging and empowering the

youth, the COAS underscored their pivotal role in sustainable development, negating vested political agendas in the interest of long-term prosperity in Balochistan.

COAS underscored that Indian sponsored proxies, Fitna al Hindustan and Fitna al Khawarij, propagate anti-people and anti-development agendas with malicious intent to perpetrate violence. He reaffirmed that all necessary actions are being

taken to pursue these terrorists and rid the Province of this menace.

The COAS reiterated that while Pakistan seeks regional peace and stability, any violation of its territorial integrity, direct or indirect, will be met with a firm and decisive response to safeguard the lives and well-being of its citizens.

The workshop concluded with a candid interactive Q&A session.



Five Terrorists Killed in CTD Operation in Sibi

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News Desk:

SIBI: Five terrorists were killed during an operation conducted by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in Balochistan's Sibi district.

According to police, the CTD personnel launched the operation on a tip-off regarding the presence of terrorists in the area. Upon reaching the location, the terrorists

opened fire on the CTD team, prompting a strong retaliatory response in which five terrorists were killed. Police further said that

weapons and explosives were recovered from the possession of the slain terrorists. The bodies have been shifted to a hospital for identification.

Chaman Border Partially Reopens After Tension

By Syed Sardar Khundai

CHAMAN: Following recent tensions at the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, which led to its temporary closure, the Chaman border has now been partially reopened, allowing stranded trucks and containers to return to Pakistan from Afghanistan.

According to official sources, 2,291 individuals and 506 families crossed from Pakistan into Afghanistan during the border closure. Speaking to Quetta Voice, Chaman Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Nafees Jan Achakzai said that both neighboring

countries should resolve their issues through mutual understanding. He added that hundreds of goods-laden trucks are still stranded across the border, carrying fresh fruits and essential food items, causing traders losses worth millions of rupees. "We urge the govern-

ment to fully restore trade activities at the Chaman border to prevent further economic damage," Achakzai emphasized. Meanwhile, the district administration has provided all basic facilities in the refugee camp established for Afghan migrants near the border.

Kachhi Shoran: Landmine Blast Kills One, Injures Two Soldiers



Special Correspondent

KACHHI: A security forces vehicle was targeted in a roadside landmine explosion in the Shoran area of district

Kachhi, Balochistan. According to Levees sources, the blast occurred while the vehicle was on routine patrol, resulting in the

martyrdom of one personnel and injuries to two others. Following the explosion, security forces and Levees cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to trace the perpetrators.

However, no arrests have been reported so far.

Two SC judges warn new code of conduct will restrict judicial freedom, create avenues for control

NEWS DESK: Supreme Court's Senior Puisne Judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Munib Akhtar have said that changes recently made to the Code of Conduct for superior court judges will restrict judicial freedom and create avenues for internal and external control, it emerged on Tuesday. On October 18, the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) approved far-reaching amendments to the Code of Conduct, barring superior court judges from engaging in public controversy or media interaction, particularly on political questions, and introducing new restrictions on social and diplomatic activity.

Chaired by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi, the meeting was attended virtually by Justices Shah and Akhtar. Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Aalia Neelum and her Islamabad counterpart Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar attended in person.

In the latest letter penned to the SJC chair and its members, Justices Shah and Akhtar said they had submitted their unsigned written comments at the start of the meeting in a letter dated October 17.

The duo then revised those comments to incorporate the "unfortunate and constitutionally inappropriate development" of the National Judicial Policy-Making Committee (NJPMC) discussing the Code of Conduct when the matter "lies solely and



exclusively within the jurisdiction of the SJC".

"These proposals, if adopted, will restrict judicial freedom, transform an open and collegial institution into a closed and hierarchical one, and create avenues for control, both internal and external," Justices Shah and Akhtar said.

Among the various tweaks, the judges strongly objected to the amendment made to the Code of

Conduct's Article V, under which judges are prohibited from speaking, writing, debating or commenting publicly on controversial matters and on political questions, even where questions of law arise.

They also took exception to the insertion of Article XIX, which provides an "institutional response" for judges facing any "influence", under which they will report to their respective chief justice, who will then inform the CJP. "In the current political and institutional climate — where pressures on the judiciary are widely perceived — such a mechanism can be manipulated to suppress legitimate whistleblowing by judges who resist external interference," the judges wrote.

On the incorporation of the 2003 SJC Resolutions/Guidelines, which includes a bar on attending social, cultural, political and diplomatic functions, the judges said it "reduces the judiciary's visibility and connection to the community".

Another clause treats the soliciting of conference or meeting invitations from foreign or international bodies as misconduct. The judges criticised this as well, noting that judges attend such seminars to "enhance comparative learning and professional competence-activities that strengthen judicial capacity, not diminish it".



QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Pakistan-Saudi Arabia
Defense Pact – A Historic
Milestone in Bilateral Relations

Editorial: For over eight decades, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have enjoyed close and cordial relations rooted in faith, friendship, and mutual cooperation. The recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to the Kingdom has further strengthened these historic ties, marking a new chapter in the relationship between the two brotherly nations.

SMDA An Unprecedented Event The signing of a Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is unprecedented. For the first time, both states have formally pledged that in an attack on one will be considered an attack on both. This landmark pact is not only a testament to their shared commitment to peace and security but also a reflection of the growing geopolitical importance of Pakistan in the wider Middle East and South Asia.

Over the years, Saudi Arabia has stood firmly by Pakistan, extending support in critical times, whether financial, diplomatic, or strategic. At the same time, Pakistan has successfully managed to maintain positive ties with both Saudi Arabia and Iran, balancing its role in a region often marked by divisions.

This ability to uphold cordial relations with diverse regional players demonstrates Islamabad's maturity in diplomacy.

China, Turkey And Saudi Arabia Fully Support Pakistan Equally significant is the fact that Pakistan continues to receive consistent and unconditional support from major global actors such as China, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia. These relationships enhance Pakistan's leverage on the international stage and help consolidate its role as a bridge between the Muslim world and the global community.

The defense agreement with Saudi Arabia is, therefore, a matter of immense pride for the Pakistani nation. It not only secures Pakistan's strategic interests but also strengthens the balance of power in the region. Such developments assure the people of Pakistan that their country is not isolated but deeply engaged in shaping the future of regional security and cooperation.

The jumpers are not just trees — they are natural climate regulators, carbon sinks, and water cycle stabilizers. Yet, their survival is now threatened by the very communities who rely on them for survival.

This Is Indeed A National Achievement The jumpers are not just trees — they are natural climate regulators, carbon sinks, and water cycle stabilizers. Yet, their survival is now threatened by the very communities who rely on them for survival.

By Fared Ullah Khan Nestled in the northeast of Balochistan, the scenic hill station of Ziarat — once known as Ghauski (meaning "cold place" in Pashto) — stands as one of Pakistan's most breathtaking natural treasures. Surrounded by snow-capped peaks and ancient juniper trees, Ziarat's crisp air and cool climate make it a haven for tourists escaping the country's sweltering summer heat.

But behind this beauty lies a crisis. The Ziarat Juniper Forest, once celebrated as the pride of Balochistan, is now on the brink of collapse — the result of climate change, deforestation, and government negligence.

Asia's Largest Juniper Forest — A Natural Wonder in Peril

The Ziarat Juniper Forest is no ordinary woodland. It is Asia's largest juniper forest and the second largest in the world, home to trees that are thousands of years old. Locally known as Sanobar, the trees grow incredibly slowly — just one inch every two years. Some are estimated to be over 2,000 years old, making this forest a living natural museum and a vital part of Pakistan's ecological heritage.

The jumpers are not just trees — they are natural climate regulators, carbon sinks, and water cycle stabilizers. Yet, their survival is now threatened by the very communities who rely on them for survival.

The Local Dilemma: "We Cut Trees Because We Have No Gas"



Speaking to a local resident revealed the heartbreaking reality behind Ziarat's deforestation.

"We're not destroying the forest out of greed," he said. "We have no choice. The government claims we have gas connections, but there's no gas in the pipelines. It only flows when VIPs visit Ziarat — then it stops again."

During the harsh winters, when temperatures drop below freezing, residents have no alternative but to cut juniper trees for firewood. Locals estimate that 600 trees are cut down daily — a devastating rate given their centuries-long growth cycle.

Climate Consequences: Disappearing Snow and Rain

The impact of this rapid deforestation is already visible. Over the past five years, rainfall and snowfall in Ziarat have drastically declined. According to recent reports, rainfall in

Balochistan during April and May has dropped by nearly 57% since 2025.

Experts warn that the juniper forest plays a key role in regulating rainfall and temperature in the wider region — including Quetta, Pishin, and Kalat. As the forest disappears, rising temperatures, soil erosion, and water shortages threaten both human life and biodiversity.

Government Silence and Weak Enforcement

When asked about the crisis, PS Abbar, Personal Secretary at the Forest Department, admitted, "No one has permission to cut these trees under forest law. If it's happening, then it's a failure of our forest officers and local administration."

Similarly, Ibrahim Baloch, Director General of Climate Change in Balochistan, acknowledged, "Deforestation is illegal. If one tree is cut, a thousand should be

planted. Our department focuses on awareness, while the Forest Department handles enforcement."

However, when asked whether awareness campaigns were conducted in Ziarat, he admitted none had taken place there yet — only in Quetta and other districts.

Repeated attempts to reach the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) for a statement were unsuccessful. The silence reflects a broader pattern of institutional neglect and lack of coordination.

Ecological Importance: More Than Just Trees

The Ziarat Juniper Forest sustains a fragile ecosystem — home to diverse wildlife and bird species that depend on these trees for shelter and food. The forest also prevents soil erosion, stores carbon, and regulates the local water cycle.

For the people of Ziarat, the jumpers represent heritage, resilience, and identity. One elderly resident summed it up poignantly: "If these trees disappear, Ziarat will lose its soul."

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Government Neglect and the Way Forward

Environmental protection has rarely been a national priority in Pakistan. In the latest provincial budget, only PKR 500 million (50 crore rupees) was allocated for climate change — an insignificant amount compared to the scale of the crisis.

Experts emphasize immediate government intervention as essential to save the Ziarat Juniper Forest.

Ensure consistent gas supply to mountainous districts to reduce dependence on firewood. Strengthen forest law enforcement and penalize illegal logging. Launch awareness and reforestation campaigns involving local communities. Promote eco-tourism to generate sustainable livelihoods that do not harm the environment.

A Call to Action: Saving Ziarat's Living Heritage

The Ziarat Juniper Forest is not just a local attraction — it is a global ecological asset. Its destruction would not only devastate biodiversity but also worsen Pakistan's climate vulnerability.

The government must understand that protecting forests is protecting life — the economy, tourism, and the future stability of Balochistan's environment all depend on it. Time is running out. Once these ancient trees are gone, they will never return.

Artificial Intelligence Just Taking Baby Steps

Syed Muhammad Qasim: Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the simulation of human intelligence in computer systems. In simple words, AI enables machines to perform tasks that require human intelligence. Those tasks can be learning from past experiences, solving problems, and making predictions based on provided data.

Until now, AI has just started taking baby steps but it is growing at a much rapid rate. Every invention had various positive and negative impacts on human civilization. According to Google's CEO, Sundar Pichai, "AI will have a more profound impact on human beings than fire, electricity, and the internet". This innovation also has both positive and negative impacts on human beings. If it is left unchecked, it will have adverse impacts on human creativity, the job market, and the flow of information. However, the positive use of AI will bring major advancements in medical science, education, agriculture, etc. In the following paragraphs, the impacts of AI on humans are described.

Negative Impacts of AI AI is a technological tool and its use can be both positive and negative, although, it is in the hands of human beings on how to use it. Following are some negative impacts of AI on humans.

Deep Fakes Through Generative AI In the age of information technology, misinformation is a

major issue. The introduction of generative AI into public space has further worsened the predicament of information flow.

Through generative AI, deep fakes are generated. These deep fakes are difficult to judge, as original or fake, for a person who has no knowledge of AI. The deep fakes can be an image, a video, or a voice note. Recently, in Slovakia's 2023 elections, a fake voice of a party's leader and a journalist was shared on social media, in which they were talking about purchasing votes from the poor population. This voice badly reduced the vote bank of that party during elections. Another example of the deep fakes that created uncertainty was pictures of the former US president, Donald Trump's arrest, which provoked his supporters' sentiments against the state. Therefore, if the use of generative AI is left unchecked, it will have adverse impacts on human creativity, the job market, and the flow of information. However, the positive use of AI will bring major advancements in medical science, education, agriculture, etc. In the following paragraphs, the impacts of AI on humans are described.

Using AI for the purpose of AI will have ferocious results. Because AI unlike humans has no fear, doesn't commit mistakes, doesn't get tired, and has no mercy. So, it can fight much better than a soldier. Thus, Countries are trying to develop AI fighters, robots, and drones for the maximization of power. This will attract the attention of their rival countries to build AI war machines for the balance of power. Hence, like

nuclear weapons, AI will further worsen security dilemmas if used for the purpose of war.

AI is a Major Threat to Human Creativity Creativity is a unique characteristic of human beings due to which they bring development, prosperity, modernization, and easiness in their lives. But man-made intelligence is growing so rapidly that it has posed a grave threat to the

laziness and comfort-seeking nature of human beings, now they mostly rely on AI to perform these tasks. With the passage of time, AI's learning more skills and human's reliance on AI is further increasing. This increase in reliance on AI will cause the death of creativity in humans.

AI and Job Market "AI is coming to take your job", this news was seen on many news platforms when ChatGPT was launched in Nov 2022. As stated earlier, AI is efficient and less time-consuming in performing a task. Therefore, it has made millions of people jobless in almost every field, whether they are hotel writers, software engineers and content writers etc. AI-driven cars can never cross the speed limit

nor have sleep problems, consequently, companies are manufacturing AI-driven cars to avoid road accidents. Journalists and content writers demand huge salaries for their work, while ChatGPT is a free AI app that can do the same tasks freely and quickly. More interestingly, AI will replace its own workers.

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code and find errors in it. To sum up, AI has much potential to replace the human workforce.

AI can Revolutionize the Medical Field AI along with synthetic biology can transform the world shaped until now. AI and synthetic biology can eradicate debilitating diseases, and find treatments for pandemics, thus providing health benefits. AI has also made a lot of achievements in the field of surgery. Last year, an AI robot performed a successful

on Provided Data Humans remain curious to predict things or the outcome of events. If data is fed to an AI, it can find patterns in that data, and based on those patterns it can give predictions. For example, AI can predict election results, market demand for a product, predict weather etc. In the US 2020 presidential elections, an AI model was trained to predict the outcome of elections. Tweets and Facebook posts were fed to the model from which AI separated positive and negative sentiments about former US President Trump and current US President Joe Biden. Based on the high number of positive sentiments, the AI model predicted that Trump would win the elections, and he won. So, humans can take advantage of this feature of AI and can reap its benefits.

Boosting Agriculture Through AI Pakistan is an agriculture-based country, and enhancing the agriculture sector will boost the country's economic performance. AI can increase agricultural production by predicting the best time to cultivate and harvest a crop. It is also capable of identifying soil conditions, plant diseases, weather forecasts, and when plants need to be irrigated. Moreover, AI can analyze the market's supply and demand chain. AI will be efficient in saving the loss of water during irrigation. Secondly, it will provide a suitable environment for the plants to grow through maintaining

egg surgery in which the inner layer of an egg was stitched. Additionally, an AI Chatbot failed to predict the outcome of elections. Tweets and Facebook posts were fed to the model from which AI separated positive and negative sentiments about former US President Trump and current US President Joe Biden. Based on the high number of positive sentiments, the AI model predicted that Trump would win the elections, and he won. So, humans can take advantage of this feature of AI and can reap its benefits.

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soil fertility and water needs. To sum up, equipping agriculture with AI systems will boost agricultural production and prevent heavy water losses.

Recommendations for the Pakistani Government The world has entered the race of AI development. Fortunately, Pakistan has a huge human resource, but making them skilled in the field of AI is a hard task to do. All provincial governments should include AI in the school curriculum. There should be an AI portal for students, from where they can get updates about AI developments around the globe and the jobs announced by the government. Furthermore, universities must be directed to increase practical work in AI rather than theoretical.

Conclusion In conclusion, AI nevertheless advantageous, poses a grave threat to human civilization. If AI is left unchecked, it can spread misinformation through deep fakes, worsen the status quo of security dilemmas, cause the death of human creativity, and take jobs.

So, all countries should sit on a single platform and form laws to control the development and introduction of AI tools in judicious space. In addition, AI companies should include a watermark to the content generated through AI to cope with misinformation. In the end, AI will be more hazardous if it gets consciousness and moves physically freely without being dependant on humans.

NADRA restores Arshad Khan Chaiwala's Pakistani nationality

ISLAMABAD (INP): Arshad Khan, famously known as Chaiwala, has regained his Pakistani nationality after NADRA admitted mistakenly blocking his ID card over allegations of holding Afghan citizenship.

The viral tweet acknowledging that the entrepreneur expressed gratitude after the issue was legally resolved. Arshad Khan's lawyer confirmed that the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) re-

stored his ID card, acknowledging that the earlier action was based on an error. The development ended months of speculation about the nationality of the internet sensation. Speaking to the media, his lawyer said,

"Arshad Khan's Pakistani identity card has been unblocked, which is good news for all Pakistanis, especially the youth. We had provided all necessary documents when the issue first arose. We requested NADRA to

follow the legal procedures." The lawyer further revealed that Arshad himself appeared in court, where the verification process was carried out for him and his family members. After re-

viewing all official records, NADRA accepted the documents as genuine and admitted its mistake. "NADRA accepted their mistake and restored his ID card," the lawyer added, emphasizing that the decision reflected a

commitment to fairness and due process. Arshad Khan expressed heartfelt gratitude after the restoration of his ID card. "I am a proud Pakistani and will always remain so," he said. He thanked his supporters

for their encouragement during the ordeal and reaffirmed his dedication to representing Pakistan. "Just as I built the Arshad Khan Chaiwala franchise, I will continue to serve and represent Pakistan proudly," he added.



QUETTA: Vice-chairman Green Pakistan Party Iqbal Kakar addressing a press conference at QPC.

China's FinVolution celebrates Daira's success in Pakistan with PKR 1 billion in loans

ISLAMABAD 2023. FinVolution Group's Pakistan-based mobile lending platform Daira has completed its first year of operations with impressive growth, surpassing one million registered users and disbursing more than PKR 1 billion in loans to over 200,000 customers across the country. The milestone was highlighted during a meeting between Minister for Board of Investment (BoI) Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh and a delegation from FinVolution Group in Islamabad, according to a Gwadar Pro's report. The delegation was co-led by Li Tiejing, CEO of FinVolution China, and Sheikh Omar Nasim, CEO of FinVolution Pakistan and Daira, according to BOI statement issued on Tuesday. Launched in

Daira is a mobile-first nano-lending application developed by FinVolution Financial Services (Private) Limited — a licensed Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) under License No. SEC/P/LRD/150/FSP/L/2024.

As an approved nano-lending platform, Daira offers fast, secure, and fully collateralized micro-loans to individuals across Pakistan, providing an accessible solution for daily wage earners, small vendors, and first-time borrowers who often lack access to traditional banking channels. Through its simple mobile interface, Daira enables users to apply for loans instantly without paper work, bank visits, or

hidden fees. The platform's focus on speed, transparency, and inclusivity has made it one of Pakistan's leading instant loan apps, helping bridge the financial gap for underserved communities.

The company also announced that Daira has recently acquired a Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) license, allowing it to expand its services to digital installment-based purchasing as well as further supporting customers in managing everyday financial needs conveniently and responsibly. Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh commended FinVolution's contribution "to promoting financial inclusion and empowering unbanked populations through innovative fintech technologies".

He assured the delegation of the government's full support for their continued growth and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to deepening investment and financial cooperation with China.

Headquartered in Shanghai, FinVolution Group is a leading fintech company operating driven financial platforms across multiple countries. By combining advanced data analytics with responsible lending practices, FinVolution connects underserved borrowers with sustainable credit solutions. Its Pakistan venture, Daira, represents a major step in extending these digital financial services to South Asia's expanding fintech ecosystem.

2025 China-Pakistan Think Tank Dialogue held in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): The China-Pakistan Think Tank Dialogue 2025-Modernization through Partnership China and Pakistan in global governance, organized by the Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies (ACOWS) and the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS) was held here, China Economic Net reported on Tuesday.

Gao Ning, Editor-in-Chief of the China International Communications Group (CICG), Shi Xuanming, Minister at the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, and Masood Khan, former permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations and former ambassador to China, attended the event to delivered speeches.

Mr. Gao emphasized that the think tanks and media of the two countries should further tell the world the wonderful story of China and Pakistan implementing global governance initiatives and working together on the road to modernization.

Mr. Shi stated that under the strategic guidance of the leaders of the two countries, bilateral political mutual trust has continued to deepen, and practical cooperation has yielded fruitful results, which has injected strong impetus into further deepening the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and building a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

Both sides should actively implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries and work together to deepen and implement the four major global initiatives.

Masood Khan stated that China's modernization is not self-sufficient, but rather a modernization that promotes regional integration and shares the fruits of development with neighboring countries through the Belt and Road Initiative.

President Xi Jinping's global governance initiative is a continuation and expansion of the global development initiative. Characterized by inclusiveness and adherence to multilateralism, it represents the voice of the vast majority of countries in the "Global South" and has received widespread support from countries around the world.

China and Pakistan play important roles in regional peace, stability, development, and prosperity, and have achieved fruitful cooperation.

The two countries should strengthen cultural exchanges and communication cooperation to bring the stories of their cooperation to more people and deepen mutual understanding and trust between the two peoples.

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QUETTA: President Quetta Bar Association Advocate Rehmatullah addressing a press conference.

TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering Division, Government of Punjab, is invited to receive sealed tenders for the following work approved in PSPR 2023-24, tender form 1500/- for S No. 1 and 5000/- for S No. 2 and 5000/- for S No. 3 and 5000/- for S No. 4 and 5000/- for S No. 5 and 5000/- for S No. 6 and 5000/- for S No. 7 and 5000/- for S No. 8 and 5000/- for S No. 9 and 5000/- for S No. 10 and 5000/- for S No. 11 and 5000/- for S No. 12 and 5000/- for S No. 13 and 5000/- for S No. 14 and 5000/- for S No. 15 and 5000/- for S No. 16 and 5000/- for S No. 17 and 5000/- for S No. 18 and 5000/- for S No. 19 and 5000/- for S No. 20 and 5000/- for S No. 21 and 5000/- for S No. 22 and 5000/- for S No. 23 and 5000/- for S No. 24 and 5000/- for S No. 25 and 5000/- for S No. 26 and 5000/- for S No. 27 and 5000/- for S No. 28 and 5000/- for S No. 29 and 5000/- for S No. 30 and 5000/- for S No. 31 and 5000/- for S No. 32 and 5000/- for S No. 33 and 5000/- for S No. 34 and 5000/- for S 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Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) withdraws Punjab local body delimitation schedule

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday withdrew the delimitation schedule for Punjab's local body elections.

According to an official statement, the decision was made

during a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja.

The Secretary of the Election Commission briefed the meeting that the Punjab Assembly had passed the Local Government

Act 2025, which has also been approved by the Governor of Punjab.

With the enactment of the new law, the Local Government Act 2022 stands repealed, prompting the commission to withdraw the earlier noti-

fication issued for delimitation under the 2022 framework.

Earlier schedule for Dec 2025 elections may be recalled that on October 8, the Election Commission had announced that the local body elections in Punjab would be held

in December 2025 under the Local Government Act 2022.

The decision was made by a five-member bench of the ECP headed by CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja, directing that the delimitation of constituencies be completed

within two months to pave the way for polls.

At that time, the ECP had confirmed that the elections would follow the Local Government Act 2022,

ensuring compliance with the prevailing legal framework

governing local administration in Punjab.

During earlier proceedings, CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja had voiced concern over delays in holding elections, saying, "It is a matter of embarrassment for us that elections are not being

held in Islamabad and Punjab."

The ECP had faced mounting pressure from political parties, including the PPP, which had publicly demanded that local body elections in Punjab be held without further delay.



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Provincial Assembly Capt. (R) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai and Provincial Minister P&D Zahoor Buledi are presiding over a meeting regarding the revised schemes of the financial year 25/2024.

PRCS organizes 2 day workshop to strengthen community resilience

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) State Branch successfully concluded a two-day workshop on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPPS) and Psychological First Aid (PFA) for the staff of mobile Health Units (MHU) and the State Branch.

The training was held in Muzaifarabad, aimed to enhance the capacity of frontline humanitarian workers to address mental health and psychosocial challenges faced by communities in times of crisis.

The workshop was organized with technical support from the PRCS National Headquarters (NHQ) and financial support from the Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The initiative reflects PRCS AJ&K's commitment to equipping its staff with the knowledge and skills needed to provide effective psychosocial support, fostering resilience in vulnerable

communities across AJ&K.

The training was designed to enhance the capacity of MHU staff who often work in remote and underserved areas to deliver timely and effective PFA during emergencies.

The training covered key aspects of MHPPS and PFA, including techniques for identifying and addressing psychological distress, promoting mental

well-being, and delivering immediate emotional support in emergencies. In addition, the participants were engaged in interactive sessions, case studies, and practical exercises to

strengthen their ability to respond to the psychosocial needs of individuals and communities affected by disasters, conflicts, or other crises.

The workshop was formally inaugurated by the Chairman of PRCS AJ&K, Sardar Shafique Ahmed Khan who underscored the critical role of mental health support in humanitarian work.

"Mental health and psychosocial support

are vital pillars of humanitarian response, especially in regions like Azad Jammu & Kashmir, where communities face unique challenges due to natural disasters and other crises.

By equipping our frontline workers with Psychological First Aid skills, we are not only addressing immediate emotional needs but also building a foundation for long-term resilience.

This training empowers our staff to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those they serve, ensuring no one is left behind in times of distress," the Chairman stated.

Over the course of two days, participants explored a range of topics, including stress management, active listening, and culturally sensitive approaches to providing psychosocial support. The workshop fostered an environment of collaboration and learning, with participants actively engaging in group discussions and role-playing exercises to simulate real-life scenarios.

The closing ceremony was graced by the Secretary PRCS AJ&K State Branch Ms Gulzar Fatima, and commended the participants for their dedication and active participation.

"The enthusiasm and commitment displayed by our staff during this workshop are truly inspiring. PRCS AJ&K remains steadfast in its mission to strengthen community resilience through initiatives like MHPPS and PFA. By equipping our team with these critical skills, we are better prepared to support individuals and families in overcoming the psychological impacts of crises. This training is a testament to our unwavering dedication to serving humanity with compassion and care." Ms Fatima remarked.

The technical expertise provided by PRCS NHQ ensured that the training adhered to international standards, equipping staff with tools to address both individual and community-level psychosocial needs.

The closing ceremony was held on the night of October 11 and 12 when tensions flared along the border.

Officials confirmed that the Torkham trade crossing was closed eight days ago following the escalation of Pakistan-Afghanistan tensions.

All is set to reopen Torkham trade crossing

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and Afghanistan are preparing to reopen the Torkham trade crossing soon, which had been closed for the past nine days due to border tensions.

Customs authorities have instructed their staff to report immediately at the Torkham terminal as preparations got under way.

According to customs sources, a cargo scanner has been moved back to the terminal to resume clearance of goods vehicles. The scanner was removed on the night of October 11

and 12 when tensions flared along the border. Officials confirmed that the Torkham trade crossing was closed eight days ago following the escalation of Pakistan-Afghanistan tensions.

On the Afghan side, security officials said hundreds of passengers have already arrived at the border after hearing that the gate may soon reopen.

The closure had brought cross-border trade to a halt, leaving dozens of trucks loaded with fruits, vegetables, and other goods stranded on the Pakistani side.

The Ghulam Khan border in North Waziristan and the Angoor Adra crossing in South Waziristan were also shut down amid the standoff.

Authorities from both sides are now trying to get trade back on track and ease the movement of goods and people across the border.

This came possible after Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed to immediate ceasefire along their borders after days of

clashes.

In an interview on Monday, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said that the primary objective of the ceasefire agreement between Pakistan and Afghanistan is to eliminate the menace of terrorism.

In an interview with Al-Jazeera, Khawaja Asif said terrorism has been affecting border areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan for years.

He said both countries have reached the conclusion that immediate elimination of terrorism is essential. He said the two countries will make serious efforts to curb terrorism, otherwise, regional peace could face serious threats.

He said the Afghan Defence Minister had acknowledged that terrorism was the main reason behind

the tensions in their relations, which will now be addressed. He hoped that peace will now return, and relations will normalize between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

As a result, Pakistan-Afghanistan trade and transit will also resume, and Afghanistan will be able to use Pakistani ports. In an X post soon after signing agreement with Afghanistan, Khawaja Asif wrote: "Cross-border terrorism from Afghanistan territory will cease immediately and both countries will respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Asif further confirmed a "follow-up meeting between the delegations is scheduled to take place in the Turkish city of Istanbul on October 25 to discuss the matters in detail."

Pakistan, China strengthen collaboration to combat Smog and air Pollution

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a significant step towards strengthening environmental cooperation under the China-Pakistan partnership, leading scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Pakistani universities have agreed to expand collaboration in research, technology, and policy implementation to combat smog and air pollution across Pakistan, Gwadar

Port reported on Tuesday. A delegation from CAS, led by Professor Dr. Gan Zhang, Academician and leading Environmental Geochemist, along with Dr. Shizhen Zhao and Dr. Yangzhi Mo, visited the Confucius Institute at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF).

The delegation held an extensive meeting with Dr. Saddam Hussain, Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Confucius Institute, to explore avenues of scientific and academic cooperation focusing on air quality management, environmental monitoring, and sustainable urban planning.

The discussions centered on leveraging China's successful experience in addressing air pollution through advanced technologies, integrated policy frameworks, and scientific innovation.

Both sides emphasized the need to develop joint research programs, technical training modules, and institutional partnerships aimed at formulating localized solutions to Pakistan's recurring smog problem, particularly in the densely populated and industrialized regions of Punjab.

The visiting scientists are actively engaged under the CAS Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which has established robust networks of environmental research across South and Southeast Asia.

Professor Zhang, known for his pioneering work on chemical pollution and Earth system health, reaffirmed CAS's commitment to fostering regional cooperation on climate and environmental governance.

He highlighted the importance of adopting a multidisciplinary approach that integrates geochemistry, atmospheric sciences, and environmental management to achieve long-term sustainability.

In addition to academic collaboration,

China's been extending practical support to Pakistan by providing components and technical assistance for the deployment of anti-smog guns devices designed to reduce airborne dust and particulate matter in urban environments.

These technologies, widely implemented in several Chinese cities, are expected to assist Pakistani authorities in mitigating smog intensity during winter months and improving urban air quality indices.

Earlier, Professor Dr. Mazhar Ayaz, Vice-Chancellor of the Chioistan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (CUVAS), also visited the Confucius Institute at UAF and met with Dr. Saddam Hussain to review the progress of the CUVAS Confucius Institute.

The collaborative initiatives align with both countries' shared vision under the Belt and Road Initiative to promote sustainable development, scientific innovation, and ecological security for mutual prosperity.

Lesser-known parties withdraw plea seeking to become opposition alliance TTAP's namesake

ISLAMABAD (INP): Three lesser-known opposition parties on Tuesday withdrew an application filed with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) seeking to be registered as an alliance under the name of Tehreek-i-Tahaffuz-i-Aywan-e-Pakistan (TTAP), while also distancing themselves from the request itself.

The matter gained traction as the proposed name is already the name of an opposition alliance led by Mehmoood Khan Achakzai. The applicants, who also sought the allocation of a joint election symbol, included Pakistan Aam Tehreek Chairman Ali Sher Yousafzai, Pakistan Falahi Tehreek Chairman Fazal Aman Khan, and

Pakistan Welfare Party Chairman Muhammad Feroq. The TTAP which saw the move as an attempt to take away its title and sabotage its resistance movement had formed a legal team to defend its position before the ECP, with Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar appearing before the commission today. The matter was heard by a three-member ECP bench headed by the member from Balochistan, Shah Mohammad Jatoi.

During the hearing, the Pakistan Falahi Tehreek chairman told the ECP that the parties had not applied for the registration of the alliance. "We were informed that we had filed an application through a

notice issued by the election commission," he said.

At this, the ECP member from Punjab, Babar Hassan Bharwana, remarked, "We did not issue a notice ourselves; someone must have applied."

He also called for a forensic analysis of the application, saying, "You should consult your legal adviser and apologise if you have applied by mistake."

The ECP told the three parties to withdraw the application, warning that action would be taken against them otherwise. For his part, Khokhar filed a request seeking the provision of records. Khokhar said that an opposition alliance had been formed

under Achakzai's leadership called the TTAP. He urged the ECP to not entertain the plea.

The ECP then sought detailed statements from the three applicants and said it would issue and appropriate order. Later, the applicants submitted handwritten requests seeking the withdrawal of their application.

Veteran politician Achakzai, who also heads his own Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), was made chairman of the TTAP, weeks after the February 8 general elections. The PTI, PKMAP, and Balochistan National Party-Mengal are among the major parties of the alliance.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshirwani listening to the problems of the people.

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Daily electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOS Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOS. The Executive Engineer-Buildings CWP/PH Department District Khairan invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2025 based on Composite schedule rates 2022 on Percentage Rate

Tender Fee 1000 PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCT OF OFFICE BUILDING / RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR PROSECUTORS IN BALUCHISTAN. PHASE-2 DISTRICHT KHARAN PGP/PH/4071 2202/020/2025-26 TSE-25081089849	58,037,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required Turn over of at least 40,825,900 PKR Annual gross turnover previous years showing financial capacity of the firm The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-3 and above (Upto 60 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE/101 General Civil Engineering Works. Attach Bid Security 2% of Estimated Cost Attach Green Chalan submitted in account C02718 Rs: 1000 Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bid must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signer from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NF & Bids/2025/26 TSE-25081089849 can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk. Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 08 November, 2025 at 11:59 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Office of The Executive Engineer-Building-CWP/PH Department District Khairan Phone: (067525082) Email: sac.balabid@ppra.gov.pk

PRD No.2023/25-10-2025

Executive Engineer (Roads) CWP/PH Dept, Chaman

CG: www.bppra.gov.pk, E: bidders@gov.pk, S: bidders@gov.pk, T: bidders@gov.pk

PRD No.2023/25-10-2025

Executive Engineer-Buildings CWP/PH Department District Khairan

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